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M I N U T E S

OF THE

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

4 - 6 February 1991

Meeting held at

Canberra, Australia

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. OPENING ACTIONS 1

A. Worship 1
B. Introduction 1
C. Roll call 1
D. Minutes of previous meeting 1
E. Adoption of agenda and timetable 1

2. REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY 2

3. MODERATOR'S REPORT TO THE ASSEMBLY 4

4. PUBLIC ISSUES 4

5. SEVENTH ASSEMBLY PROGRAMME 8

6. INTRODUCTION TO COMMITTEE WORK 8

7. PRELIMINARY FINANCE REPORT 8

8. PROCEDURES FOR ASSEMBLY NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE 10

9. REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE 12

A. Membership of Assembly Nominations Committee 12
B. Membership of Assembly Committees 12
C. Change in Staff Rules 12
D. Membership of Retirement Fund 13
E. Applications for Membership 13
F. Applications for Affiliation 14

10. REPORT OF THE PROGRAMME SUB-COMMITTEE 15

A. World Conference on Faith and Order 16
B. Ecumenical Global Gathering of Youth and Students 16
C. Report on the Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women 17

11. REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE 18

12. RESOLUTION FROM PRE-ASSEMBLY YOUTH EVENT PARTICIPANTS 29

13. REPORT OF THE STAFFING SUB-COMMITTEE 31

A Contract extensions 31
B. Internal promotion from Grade 5 to Grade 6 32
C. Vacancies 32
D. Information 33

14. CLOSING ACTIONS 34

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APPENDICES

I Attendance 35

II Membership of Sub-committees 37

III Nominations Process and Procedures 38

IV Review of Special Funding Policy and Practice 41

V 1992 Preliminary budget 44

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Canberra, Australia
4 - 6 February 1991

OPENING ACTIONS

A. Worship

Opening Worship was led by the Moderator, Dr Held. On subsequent mornings, worship was led by members of the Executive Committee.

B. Introduction

The Executive Committee was held at University House on the campus of the Australian National University in Canberra, Australia.

On Wednesday afternoon, 6 February, Executive Committee members and staff were invited to a Reception at the High Court in Canberra on the occasion of the official opening of the Exhibition of Aboriginal Art.

The Moderator convened the meeting of the Executive Committee at 9.00 hrs on Monday 4 February

C. Roll call

The General Secretary called the roll of those attending and presented apologies from Dame Nita Barrow, His Beatitude Ignatios IV, His Eminence Metropolitan Antonie of Transylvania, and Mr Bena-Silu.

D. Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held in Granvollen, Norway, 22-29 September 1990, having been previously circulated, were confirmed.

E. Adoption of agenda and timetable

The General Secretary presented a revised agenda and timetable which, with some amendments, were adopted. Some further changes were made later in the meeting to allow members the possibility of attending a session of the Pre-Assembly Women's Meeting.

2. REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

The General Secretary began by reporting on the growing agreement achieved between the two Orthodox families which he saw as an historic breakthrough and a result of this ecumenical period of history. He invited Metropolitan Dr Paulos Mar Gregorios to report on the meeting which was held at Chambésy, near Geneva.

Metropolitan Gregorios explained that the division between the two Orthodox families dates from the 5th and 6th centuries, and it was only in 1964, with assistance from the WCC, that the first non-official conversations were embarked on with the blessing of the Ecumenical Patriarch and the heads of the Orthodox churches.

The series of unofficial talks were followed by official dialogue, and at the most recent meeting in September 1990 both sides came to an almost complete theological agreement, producing a text setting out their mutual agreement. It appeared that the original division arose due to some basic misunderstandings rather than as a result of doctrinal differences.

Metropolitan Chrysostomos of Myra also expressed his satisfaction at the successful outcome of this dialogue, and his joy that hence-forward the Orthodox can speak as one family of churches.

The General Secretary then continued his report, referring to the various visits he had made to various churches and regions in the period since the last meeting of the Executive Committee. He also drew attention to a number of situations in which the Council is involved.

The WCC, together with the Conference of European Churches (CEC), had co-sponsored an encounter of church leaders from Hungary and Romania to help in the process of reconciliation between the churches of these two countries. In addition, steps are being taken with a view to forming a council of churches in Romania.

He referred to the changes beginning to take place in Albania and said that it was hoped to arrange an ecumenical team visit there after the assembly. In Yugoslavia, the tensions between the various ethnic groups have in many cases religious overtones, and attempts at bridge-building need to be made between the churches there.

The problem of the Uniate churches remains acute, especially in the Ukraine, and a similar situation is developing in Czechoslovakia which requires careful monitoring. There remains anxiety about developments in Georgia as well as in the Baltic states, and it is difficult to maintain contact with the churches there. It was hoped that there would be some opportunity for dialogue with assembly delegates from these areas.

In order to maintain closer contact with the churches and the changing situations in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe CICARWS is appointing a special consultant, whose first task will be to help organise diaconal services for the Russian Orthodox Church.

Dr Castro reported on his private visit to the Methodist Church in Singapore. The church had been hurt by the fact that the action of the Central Committee in Hannover was taken without consultation with them. The World Methodist Council is to hold a meeting in Singapore in July, but some churches have decided not to participate in it, and in view of the Hannover action the WCC cannot be represented there.

Representatives from North and South Korea met again in December, and representatives from North Korea will attend the assembly for the first time. Dr Castro hoped to visit both North and South Korea in the coming months.

Representatives of WCC member churches and of other churches in South Africa met in Rustenberg in November 1990. Archbishop Makhulu, who had led the WCC delegation, spoke of the measure of reconciliation which developed during the course of the meeting and the clear desire expressed to find a just solution to the situation in South Africa. The resulting Declaration gives a Christian perspective for the future of South Africa.

Dr McCloud also spoke of his experience of returning to South Africa after many years of enforced absence. While the meeting represented a unique event in the life of the churches there, it is clear that the road ahead is a long one and will not be without struggle.

Dr Castro then spoke of his visit to China in response to the request from the China Christian Council (CCC) to discuss the possibility of their membership in the World Council. He recalled that the four former WCC member churches in China, which were founder members since Amsterdam, had withdrawn from the WCC during the Korean war in protest against the Council's stand in support of UN intervention in Korea. These churches later disappeared to emerge as the CCC - a post-confessional church in formation. Although a number of problems remained, he hoped it would be possible to find solutions in conversations that would take place during the assembly.

Reference was also made to the difficult situation in East Timor, and Mr Briggs reported on his brief pastoral visit to the country on his way to Canberra. He urged that more attention be given to the problems there and suggested that the WCC make every effort to cooperate with plans being proposed by the CCA.

In discussion, Dr McCloud noted that the WCC is better at speaking about economic situations in the world than it is at taking a more pastoral attitude towards member churches which are going through life and death struggles. He reiterated the need for us to give more time to the pastoral tasks which we are called upon to do.

In response to a question from Bishop Hempel about the life of the Church in China, the General Secretary said there was a good deal of interest in the church and many young people are attending the seminaries.

Metropolitan Gregorios spoke of the complicated problems facing the churches in Eastern and Central Europe and the Soviet Union,

which raise many questions, including the relationship between Orthodox and Catholic and between Christian and Muslim. Governments see everything from the political viewpoint rather than from that of religious freedom. In most of the former socialist/communist states, persecution of the old leadership is seen as the best way to rise within the new leadership.

Bishop Toth spoke of the artificial mood of hysteria fostered by the mass media, which exercise tremendous pressure on churches and Christians. There is great confusion because people have not had the opportunity to learn to distinguish between what is true and what is false. He hoped that after the elections the situation would improve, and that the churches would turn to the new missionary tasks presented by the new situation, which have been neglected in view of recent events and the battle for leadership.

3. MODERATOR'S REPORT TO THE ASSEMBLY

Dr Held explained the division of labour agreed between the General Secretary and himself in relation to their reports to the assembly. His task was to present a summary report on the life and work of the WCC in the period between Vancouver and Canberra. So much having happened, the report was too lengthy to be read in full, so he intended to read selected parts only.

Dr Post, Moderator of the Assembly Planning Committee (APC), noted that, since the assembly was shorter than usual, it had not been possible to include programme hearings to provide background for delegates. The APC had therefore asked the Moderator to give a full report on the Council's activities to allow for some feedback during the assembly.

A number of comments were made with regard to specific emphases. Mr Voksoe urged that the financial issue not be expressed in a negative way, but rather in terms of asking how the Council can better manage its activities based on the resources it has.

Dr Held agreed with the comment that he had not been able to include a mention of every meeting and activity that had taken place during the past seven years. His report should be seen rather as a supplement to the printed report "From Vancouver to Canberra". After discussion in plenary it would be passed to the Reference and Programme Policy Committees for consideration.

4. PUBLIC ISSUES

Mr Koshy first gave a summary of the actions taken since the last meeting of the Executive Committee. He then referred to the procedures and criteria for public issues at the assembly, noting that the Business Committee would have to decide which issues required action, based on proposals from the Executive Committee.

He gave a detailed survey of events leading to the Gulf War (which had started a little over two weeks previously). Clearly the Gulf crisis had a significance which the assembly would have to take

into account, and would surely be affected by. What the assembly had to say about the present crisis and its broader implications would have a long-term impact on the ecumenical movement itself. What was at stake was not only a war in the Middle East but also the far broader global concerns involved. Destruction of an unparallelled nature had already taken place, and any outbreak of war can only be described as a sad moment in the history of humankind.

Mr Koshy spoke of the actions taken by the Council since the Executive Committee met in September, including contacts with governments and with the United Nations in an attempt to avert war and to solve the situation by peaceful means. These efforts had continued until the last minute appeal made just prior to the expiry of the deadline given to Iraq by the United Nations.

As a world body committed to upholding the churches, the WCC should take a critical look also at the role of the UN. The WCC has affirmed support for actions taken by the UN regarding economic sanctions, but the Security Council resolution authorising states in the alliance to use all necessary means if Iraq refused to withdraw from Kuwait raises fundamental questions. The procedures laid down under the UN Charter had not been followed, in that the Military Staff Committee of the UN had not been convened. The war was being waged in the name of the UN, but the UN had no control over the course of it, and could not even call for a cease-fire.

While the WCC in its earlier resolution did not link the Palestinian issue with the annexation of Kuwait by Iraq, it did maintain that any new world order for peace in the Middle East could be attained only by addressing the other issues relating to the region. It is also important to ensure that there is some consistency in UN actions - extreme measures are used to ensure the application of some resolutions but not of all of them.

In dealing with this issue, the WCC as a body of churches had also to deal with the widespread prevailing perceptions about the war, which had become global in its emotional sense as well as in its political and economic dimensions which affect people in all parts of the world. A wrong perception but one which has wide reverberations is that it is a war between Christians and Muslims.

Churches around the world have in general been very critical about the preparations for the war, rejecting it as a solution in these times, though some church leaders still feel there are arguments justifying war in certain circumstances. Pressures and dynamics in a situation where a large number of a country's citizens are in the armed forces make heavy demands on the pastoral task of the churches.

Clearly the assembly is meeting at a crucial point in history, and what it says will provide significant signals for what our faith demands today in terms of the world we live in.

Metropolitan Chrysostomos stressed the importance of also finding solutions for the situations in Cyprus, Lebanon and the Occupied Territories, while Dr Held urged that mention be made of Israel

and the need for its boundaries to be respected. Dr McCloud felt it was not the task of the World Council to examine UN resolutions and actions; our statement ought to be based on other criteria that are not the same as those of any international organisation.

Metropolitan Gregorios spoke of his recent visit to the Middle East where he had met with a number of government representatives in several countries. It was his opinion that early on in the negotiations a peaceful solution might have been possible. Many nations which supported the UN resolution did not anticipate that it would indeed lead to the present outcome. He urged that there be a strong statement from the assembly saying that war as a way of settling conflicts is not acceptable and that negotiations to bring it to an end should be begun immediately.

He also pointed out that countries without military power themselves feel helpless in such situations; they cannot make any decision regarding the UN resolution because their economy is such that they depend on financial assistance through the UN system. This aspect should not be forgotten by the richer countries.

Archbishop Athanasios, speaking as an Arab Christian, pointed to the racial elements and the rising tide of Muslim feeling in the Middle East region. Only a few Christians remain in some areas, and he urged that the fate of these minorities be considered by the WCC in any statement made by the assembly. He asked that delegates from the Middle East be given an opportunity to meet together while in Canberra as they have no possibility to do so at home.

Dr Bührig shared Metropolitan Gregorios' feeling of helplessness in the war situation - she spoke for half of humanity, the women. They feel helpless also - the decisions to go to war are made by men, and though many women are involved in peace organisations and take part in protests, it is they who bear the children who are involved in the war. War is not a means for solving any problem.

Dr Post referred to the tough stance taken by the NCCCUSA and church leaders in the US, expressing the hope that the WCC would speak out clearly and not defer to all the sensitivities.

Dr Love urged that a holistic analysis in terms of the economic and ecological dimensions be made, ensuring that our witness during the assembly keep in balance the inter-relationship between justice, peace and the integrity of creation.

The General Secretary proposed that the Executive Committee make a brief statement on the Gulf War without trying to address all the issues - this would be the task of the assembly itself. Not all members were in favour of this proposal, but the following were requested to prepare a draft: Dr Wilson, Dr Nababan, Archbishop Athanasios and Dr Love, together with Mr Koshy.

Mr Koshy then presented three further topics for public issues:

- Internal Conflicts
- Indigenous Peoples
- South Africa.

These four proposals would be brought to the Assembly Business Committee for approval prior to being presented to the assembly, and the Public Issues Committee would work on the preparation of the statements.

At a later session, Dr Wilson reported on behalf of the drafting group and presented a draft of the statement which the Executive Committee had decided to issue prior to the assembly's deliberations and statement on the subject.

There was considerable discussion as to what was appropriate to include in this statement, which was intended simply to express to delegates the fact that the Executive Committee was concerned about the issue and felt it important to say something immediately rather than waiting until the end of the assembly. Detailed points and analysis should wait for inclusion in the Assembly's statement.

After discussing and agreeing to a number of changes, the statement was adopted as follows:

> As the Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches meets on the eve of the Seventh Assembly, a war of ominous proportions and tragic consequences is escalating in the Gulf. The theme of the Assembly, "Come, Holy Spirit, Renew the Whole Creation", assumes a special significance as it directly challenges us now to pray and act for peace in the face of the mounting threat to humankind and to all God's creation.
>
> The Seventh Assembly will make a public statement on this issue on the basis of a thorough and careful assessment of the situation. The Executive Committee prays that the Assembly may become an occasion for united action and witness for peace, and that its message may be one of comfort at this time of affliction, courage at this time of tribulation and hope at this time of anguish and despair.
>
> The Executive Commitee upholds in its intercessions all victims of the crisis, all those suffering in this war, and all those at risk. It prays for those who make decisions that they may be granted courage and wisdom to pursue the path of peace.
>
> The Committee joins with people of all faiths in common prayers and endeavours for peace. It prays especially for the followers of the three religions which originated in the region.
>
> The Executive Commitee recalls the act of covenant at the WCC World Convocation on Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation in Seoul (March 1990) "for a comprehensive notion of security that takes the legitimate interests of all nations and peoples into account ... through the overcoming of the institution of war as a means to resolve conflicts and through the rejection and overcoming of the spirit, logic and practice of deterrence with weapons of mass destruction." The Executive Committee therefore appeals to all parties in the conflict for an immediate cessation of hostilities and negotiations for an end to the war and the resolution of the crisis. It urges all concerned to take bold initiatives to stop the spiral of violence and death.

5. ASSEMBLY PROGRAMME

Dr Avery Post, Moderator of the Assembly Planning Committee, gave his final report to the Executive Committee. He paid tribute to the hard work being done by the Australian Assembly Office staff as well as by the Geneva staff, noting that there were many logistical problems to be overcome.

Dr Ariarajah spoke in more detail about the assembly programme, indicating one major change entailing the bringing forward of the plenary and evening event on JPIC to be followed by an all-night vigil for peace and leading into the Lima Liturgy. It was agreed that this take place on Saturday 9 February instead of on Monday 11 February. This would also facilitate the participation of people from local churches around Canberra.

A number of points were raised for clarification. It was noted that although only two hours were scheduled over the lunch break for Committee meetings, lunch would be served in the meeting rooms.

Ms Skuse urged that the brief periods of free time now left in the programme not be used for additional plenary sessions.

In response to a question regarding the Aboriginal ceremony planned at the beginning of the Opening Worship, Dr Ariarajah said that Bishop Malcolm (Moderator of the Aboriginal and Islander Commission of the Australian Council of Churches) had written an explanatory text describing the ceremony and its intention; this would be incorporated in the order of worship.

Dr Talbot expressed thanks on behalf of the Executive Committee to all those involved in the detailed planning of the Assembly.

6. INTRODUCTION TO COMMITTEE WORK

The General Secretary reported briefly on a meeting of the Officers held in November 1990 attended also by the Moderators of the Unit Committees. This was intended to help him in bringing realistic proposals for the 1991 and 1992 budgets.

It was clear that, due to the high deficit envisaged, it would not be possible to establish a 1992 budget simply by percentage reductions. Instead, serious attention must be given to reducing both the number of staff and the number of administrative/cost centres in the Council. The Finance Sub-committee would be studying several proposals that had emerged from discussions among staff.

7. PRELIMINARY FINANCE REPORT

Dr McCloud explained that this meeting of the Executive Committee was taking place too early in the year for detailed information on the 1990 results to be available. The Finance Sub-committee would be addressing the 1991 budget which would probably have a deficit of around Sfr 2 million, and for 1992 an even higher deficit was to

be expected. He expressed concern at the untenable position in which this would place the new Executive and Central Committees, and urged that the Finance Sub-committee take appropriate action, stating the necessity for the WCC to reduce its programmatic activities in cases where there are no financial resources to support them. Although the churches have been giving more to the Council, the global economic situation means that the amount received by the WCC is less in real terms.

Mr Voksoe reiterated his opinion that the Council is not in a crisis, but he underlined that the present situation does require action and adjustment: if no action is taken, then it may develop into a crisis. He referred to several major attempts in 1990 to achieve certain changes - such as the work done by the Committee on Programmatic Reorganisation (CPR) which had to all intents and purposes been a failure; the efforts made at the Oslo Finance meeting and at the Executive Committee in Granvollen in September 1990 when agreement was reached about the need to make some changes. Yet once again the same basic facts were being faced and there was no firm plan as to how to act, or how to leave the way clear for the assembly to propose new programmes. He asked how priorities can be set? Is it fair to leave such decisions to the new Central Committee?

Dr Held pointed out that the enlarged Officers' meeting in November had concluded that the only way to reduce the expected deficit would be to reduce staff, and to plan budgets according to the resources anticipated.

The General Secretary said that the Programme Sub-committee would also be looking at the question of reducing programmes. He saw the next step as establishing basic parameters for 1992 according to the data available, within which the programme ideas from the assembly would have to be fitted. The new Central Committee would then be required to make concrete decisions regarding programmes.

Dr Wilson urged that there be some consultation also with member churches in the whole process to ensure their understanding of the problems. She felt that the whole style of the WCC should be questioned, and that other ways be found to involve people without feeling the necessity to hold a world conference every year.

Dr McCloud reiterated the need to take a different approach with regard to budgeting: to begin from the standpoint of what resources are known to be available and to ask sub-units to see what programme work can be done within these limits.

Dr Love felt that the proposal for programmatic reorganisation referred by the Central Committee in March 1990 to the new Central Committee should not be contravened unless there was a clear proposal.

Metropolitan Gregorios pointed out that the present problems are the result of the new world economic situation and were not anticipated by the Central Committee in March 1990. This should be made clear to the assembly. He did not feel the present Executive Committee could take any decision, however, due to lack of time to

study possible models. But some alternative scenarios could be produced to share with the new Central Committee.

Mr Davies explained that the enlarged Officers' meeting in November had been enthusiastic about a proposal to try to cost four different scenarios, including two of those proposed by the CPR in March 1990. However, when staff had tried to work on this they had realised it was impossible, firstly, because none of the scenarios was spelled out in sufficient detail, and secondly, because of the proposal noted above that budgeting should start from the resources known to be available. A paper on this latter issue would be shared with the Finance Sub-committee.

Mr Voksoe asked what material would be provided to the Assembly Finance Committee and requested that a clear description of the Council's financial situation be prepared by the General Secretary. If this were not possible, then the Executive Committee should formulate an appropriate text. He felt that, contrary to the proposal that budgeting start with the resources in hand, it would not work for the WCC as it does not have a unified structure. First we have to address the question of staff which means looking at structure. Mr Briggs stressed the need for action to be taken soon and urged that this be done strategically, not haphazardly.

Dr McCloud proposed that the Programme and Finance Sub-committees meet together in order to discuss the financial implications of programme matters. He concurred that care should be taken not to create a crisis situation in the context of the assembly, though reference should be made to the need for financial restraint. The Executive Committee accepted this proposal by common consent.

Dr Talbot expressed thanks to Dr McCloud for his report.

Dr Post noted that the General Secretary has authority to proceed with urgent moves to prepare a sound budget for 1991. There must be a distinction between policy and management.

8. PROCEDURES FOR ASSEMBLY NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE (Appendix III)

On Tuesday 5 February, the Executive Committee met with Rev. Ruth Jefferson and Bishop Jeremias, Co-Moderators of the Nominations Committee. Ms Jefferson spoke of the preliminary work done on two visits to Geneva and described the process and procedures for the election of the new Central Committee. A letter had been sent to heads of member churches inviting them to nominate person(s) from their delegations, and the importance of balances (gender, youth, lay, ordained, as well as confessional and geographical) was explained.

A letter had also been sent to the members of the Nominations Committee appointed by the Executive Committee in September 1990, suggesting that, should anyone wish to be a candidate for Central Committee, he/she should not serve on the Nominations Committee.

A number of responses had been received from member churches as well as from staff Regional Task Forces. Some nominations for

President had also been received, but more women's names were still needed.

Bishop Jeremias outlined the procedures for drawing up the first proposed list of Central Committee members, and indicated the suggested timetable for reporting to plenary.

He asked for a response to the question whether to continue as in the past to divide Europe into two categories, East and West, and for the time being also to appoint delegates separately from Germany (West) and the former GDR because at the church level the two are not yet reunited. This was agreed by common consent. It was however felt that there should be only one President from Europe in order to keep the total to seven.

In discussion a question was raised regarding balances: for example, if youth delegates only total 13% of the assembly, to what extent does this affect their percentage on Central Committee?

Dr Wilson felt that there was an unfair expectation that western and northern churches should carry the main burden for nominating a higher proportion of women, which means that some of the good male delegates do not get an opportunity to serve. Yet there are a number of churches which have named all-male delegations. The assembly should be informed of the various sensibilities to be kept in mind.

Bishop Jeremias pointed out that the preparatory work done so far was informal: the Nominations Committee would only be officially appointed at the beginning of the assembly. But there is a tradition, and it is helpful to work along lines already known rather than starting afresh. The main difficulty centred around the election of Presidents, and he felt that this should be clarified in the Rules to avoid the current confusion.

Some feeling was expressed that the Executive Committee should be consulted during the assembly once proposed names for Presidents were available. Dr Love felt it would be more helpful to meet with members of the Nominations Committee early on in order to clarify some of the issues raised by this Executive.

This led to a discussion about the status of this Executive at the assembly. The General Secretary affirmed that it does indeed remain in office until the first meeting of the new Central Committee, and would have to meet in the case of any emergency arising. But he did not feel it appropriate that the present Executive should have any role in discussing names proposed by the Nominations Committee.

It was agreed by common consent that the Executive Committee meet with the Nominations Committee at a time to be decided on Saturday 9 February.

9. REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

A. Membership of Assembly Nominations Committee

Dr Talbot presented a revised list of membership of the Assembly Nominations Committee, noting the Sub-committee's proposal that this be increased to a total of 35 names (instead of 30) in order to have a better means of reaching the required balances.

The Executive Committee voted in favour of the proposed list.

B. Membership of Assembly Committees

At another session, Dr Talbot presented the proposed lists of membership of other assembly committees, noting various changes that had occurred due to cancellations or for other reasons.

Archbishop Kirill announced that the Russian Orthodox Church delegation had had to be reduced from 38 to 24 (for financial reasons) which would mean several alterations in their representation on committees.

It was agreed to ask the Officers to finalise the lists prior to their presentation to the assembly for approval.

C. Change in Staff Rules

Dr Talbot reported on a proposed change in staff rules required in order to bring these into line with the Swiss Civil Code, of which Article 337 reads as follows:

> "The employer and the employee may cancel the contract immediately at any time on legitimate grounds.
>
> "Are considered as legitimate grounds all circumstances under which, according to the rules of good faith, it would not be possible to expect the continuation of a working relationship.
>
> "The judge will estimate if legitimate grounds exist, but in no case will he/she consider as such the fact that the employee, through no fault of his/her own, was prevented from working."

It was proposed that the new text of Staff Rule VI 1.04 read as follows:

> "Disciplinary measures may take the form of a warning, a written reprimand, suspension with or without pay, reassignment, dismissal, or summary dismissal on legitimate grounds in accordance with article 337 of the Swiss Code of Obligations."

The Executive Committee agreed.

D. Membership of Retirement Fund

The Sub-committee recommended that Ms Lois Meyhoffer, representative of the pensioners, be reappointed to the Board of the Retirement Fund.

It was also recommended that Dr Oscar McCloud, Mr Per Voksoe and Dr Marga Bührig be reappointed to the Board of the Retirement Fund until such time as their successors are elected.

The Executive Committee **agreed.**

E. Applications for Membership

Dr Talbot reported on the proposal by the Sub-committee that the application from the Nederduitse Gereformeerde Sending Kerk (NGSK)/ Dutch Reformed Mission Church in South Africa (DRMC) be accepted for recommendation to the assembly.

The Committee **agreed.**

*

At a later session, Dr Talbot reported on an application for membership received from the China Christian Council (CCC), noting that some clarifications were needed before action could be taken. In response to a question, the General Secretary explained that the Chinese government will not allow the CCC to become a member of any organisation until there is a clear statement about the status of Taiwan. It is necessary therefore to find a wording to use in our listing of member churches which satisfies our member church in Taiwan and at the same time provides the opportunity for the church in the People's Republic of China to enter fully into the fellowship of the WCC.

It was hoped to have a discussion during the assembly with the respective delegations to seek a mutually acceptable wording.

Bishop Toth asked about the ecclesiological significance of accepting a council as a member church. The General Secretary responded that this was not a unique case: there were other federations of churches (such as those in Switzerland and Germany) which count as the 'member church' but which include a number of churches. He explained that the title 'China Christian Council' was in fact the name of the church; it is not composed of denominations but is the post-denominational Church in China in formation (but does not include the Roman Catholic Church).

Metropolitan Gregorios felt that any footnote in the member church list should not make specific reference to China and Taiwan but apply to all cases where there is a geographically disputed situation.

The following understanding was accepted:

- the Executive Committee would welcome the membership of the China Christian Council;
- there must be agreement on how to respond to the concerns expressed by the CCC and the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan;
- the Presidents be invited to join the conversations that the General Secretary has planned with the delegations of these two churches;
- only if all these problems are clarified should the application be brought to the opening session of the assembly.

In response to a question, the General Secretary explained that the four Chinese churches which had been founder members of the WCC are no longer in existence. It is therefore not possible for the WCC to receive them 'back into membership' from which they had withdrawn in 1950 because they were not able to support the Council's stance in the Korean war.

In the period when international relations ceased, national structures within China - including the churches - could not function either; churches were thus reduced to house groups. Yet the streams represented by these earlier churches are to be found in the CCC.

Dr Nababan felt that, in saying that the CCC is a church, it would be possible simply to reaffirm its membership. He requested that, as a President of the Christian Conference of Asia, he also be permitted to attend the conversations with the Chinese delegation. This was agreed.

F. Applications for Affiliation

Dr Talbot presented the Sub-committee's proposal that the applications from the newly formed Churches Together in Wales (CYTUN), and from the Conference of Churches in Aotearoa-New Zealand together with that from the Maori Council of Churches - Te Runanga Whakawhanaunga I Nga Hahi o Aotearoa - be accepted for recommendation to the assembly. She pointed out that although it was not usual for the WCC to have two affiliated councils within one country, this was a special situation in view of the developing bicultural nature of many of the member churches in New Zealand which would be most accurately reflected by both councils holding Associate Council status.

Both Councils were asking that, when there is an international ecumenical conference for which an invitation is sent to Aotearoa-New Zealand, copies be sent to both councils. Should only one place be allotted to their representative, the Runanga would decide which of the two councils should take up the invitation.

Dr Nababan asked, if this were accepted, to what degree did it mean the acceptance of the racial status quo? Archbishop Makhulu said that for the Anglican Church this was not a new situation: there is a Bishopric for the Maoris which they decided to establish for themselves while being full members of the Anglican Church of New Zealand. He saw it as an understanding of the co-existence of the different peoples and not implying any separation.

REPORT OF THE PROGRAMME SUB-COMMITTEE

Metropolitan Chrysostomos introduced the report, saying that there had been a full discussion about WCC programmes for the coming years, and it was felt that some explanation should be offered to the assembly in view of the issues addressed by the Executive Committee in September 1990 and by the enlarged Officers' meeting in November 1990. He presented the report as follows:

Following the joint meeting with the Finance Sub-committee to consider the essential need for combining the future financial realities of the WCC with its programme planning, wide agreement was reached that overall changes are necessary in planning, budgeting and organisation of WCC activities in order to ensure their future viability and strength.

With this in mind, the Programme Sub-committee drew attention to the past efforts of the Executive and Central Committees in dealing with questions of programmatic reorganisation. The reports of these efforts were received by the Central Committee in March 1990, and referred to the new Central Committee for their consideration.

With this background in mind, and based on the discussions of the Executive Committee, the Officers, and on the work of staff since March 1990, the Programme Sub-committee recommended to the Exective Committee that the following decisions be made and implemented:

1) that the level of staff in the WCC should be reduced; the Council must ensure that programme activities are fully integrated with financial and human resources in the period following the Seventh Assembly;

2) that the process for establishing programme priorities and appropriate structures be carried out as decided by the Executive Committee in September 1990. This would involve the meeting of the new Executive Committee together with a group of advisers on programme matters in July 1991 to make proposals for priorities, programmes and structures, based on the guidelines of the Seventh Assembly. These proposals then would be finalised at the meeting of the new Central Committee in September 1991, at which point the 1992 budget would also receive final approval;

3) that, in order to implement the above, the Executive Committee underscore that this would require a substantial commitment on the part of the General Secretary and staff in preparing proposals and their budgetary implications for consideration by next July. The General Secretary, therefore, is strongly urged to initiate such planning and staff work following the assembly which will secure that this process be implemented, in order to provide for the long-term viability and strength in the work of WCC.

The Sub-committee further recommended that this portion of its report to the Executive Committee be shared with members of the

Programme Policy Committee of the Assembly for their information.

Dr Wilson noted that attention must also be given to the style of the Council's work, pointing out that the section of the report of the Finance Sub-committee on Special Funding (see also Appendix IV to these minutes) should be seen together with this report of the Programme Sub-committee.

Metropolitan Chrysostomos presented the rest of the Sub-committee's report as follows:

A. World Conference on Faith and Order

The Programme Sub-committee heard with appreciation a report by the Moderator of the Faith and Order Commission, Prof. John Deschner, on the purpose and significance of the Fifth World Conference on Faith and Order planned for 1993.

The Sub-committee recommended that the Executive Committee

(a) recognise that this would be an occasion for the churches to reflect on their ecumenical commitment at the end of this 'ecumenical century', and in view of the new demands they face in the present time and world;

(b) endorse the plan to hold the World Conference in 1993, emphasising that

- Faith and Order be allowed to begin to address requests for special funding after the Canberra Assembly;

- in view of the WCC financial difficulties, the number of participants be reduced from 450 to 350.

The Executive Committee **agreed.**

B. Ecumenical Global Gathering of Youth and Students (EGGYS)

The Programme Sub-committee recommended that the Executive Committee

(a) receive the up-date provided on the EGGYS and express appreciation at work done up to this point by staff and by cooperating partners;

(b) note with appreciation the strong commitment of partners, especially in funding 43% of costs of the EGGYS process from existing budgets and programmes;

(c) accept the commitment of the EGGYS partners to 'live within means', noting that, if resources allow, a larger number of participants be pursued in the planning.

The Executive Committee **agreed.**

C. Report on the Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women (EDCSW)

The Programme Sub-committee recommended that the Executive Committee

a) recognise the progress of the EDCSW and encourage member churches to intensify their efforts for solidarity with women;

b) give further support to the planning and implementation of mid-Decade events as authorised by the Central Committee in Moscow (see CC minutes 1989, pp.114-115);

c) promote the Ecumenical Decade Fund to enable acts of solidarity with women globally.

In response to a request from Dr Tolen for more information on the Decade, Ms Oduyoye spoke on behalf of the Director of the Sub-unit on Women in Church and Society, who will only take up her post in May 1991. Although the staff of the Sub-unit has been at less than minimum level in the past few months, one of the tasks has been to collect information sent in by churches about their work relating to the Decade.

Secondly, the Sub-unit is attempting to raise funds to enable churches which do not otherwise have resources to promote the Decade's concerns; so far this has not met with much enthusiasm in concrete terms.

Several staff of other sub-units are also making efforts to highlight women's concerns, and a "Risk" book has been published, giving examples of what churches are doing. Future plans may have to be modified to some degree depending on funds, and on the vision of the new Director.

Dr Wilson said that the work of the Geneva staff on this issue is appreciated in different parts of the world, despite the fact that the programme has not yet received the visibility originally hoped for. Many creative things are happening under the aegis of the Decade, but in many areas churches have not taken up the idea and see it in terms of women in solidarity with women rather than of the churches in solidarity with women.

Ms Oduyoye also referred to the surprise elicited in some churches at the idea of solidarity with women, since they do not see women as being excluded from the church. However, they do not always understand that because women are present in church and do many of the jobs that require to be done, they are not fully participating or being of the church.

The Executive Committee agreed to the above recommendations.

11. REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Dr McCloud, Moderator of the Finance Sub-committee, presented the report.

1. Sale of WCC plot of land

Rev. Jean-Pierre Jornod, (a member of Central Committee who had worked on an interim basis in the office of the Assistant General Secretary for Finance and Administration in the period between Mr Coïdan's departure and the arrival of Mr Davies), made a presentation to the Sub-committee on this subject, explaining the situation in detail.

The WCC owns a 10,000 square-metre plot of land adjacent to the 'Château' in Grand-Saconnex. In 1984 the communal authorities of Grand-Saconnex requested the scheduling of the 'Château' as a historical monument, and consequently a zone around the Château, including part of the land owned by the WCC, will probably be protected against building. On receiving notice of this eventuality, the WCC expressed reservations regarding any restrictions of its rights to build on the property. It also informed the Grand-Saconnex authorities of its intention to build apartments for staff in the near future and therefore to sell the existing property to an international organisation or foreign mission (only offices for such organisations can be built on the property) in order to purchase equivalent land in an area where construction of apartment building is possible. The Commune expressed interest in purchasing the land and asked the WCC to make an offer. Under the circumstances, in July 1984 the Executive Committee accepted the recommendation to:

"(a) authorise the WCC to put the property on the market and to make an offer to the Commune on the basis of the best bid obtained on the market, and

"(b) authorise the Officers to sell the property provided the proceeds of that sale be for capital reinvestment in property at an appropriate time."

Several elements have prolonged subsequent action on the part of the WCC, including Cantonal government discussions of possible exchange of the property for sites on which the WCC could build. No firm offer has been considered up to now due to shifts in the local governmental position.

The WCC cannot build housing on the present plot of land, and it was with this aim that the Executive Committee authorised the sale in 1984. It will be virtually impossible to sell to a party other than the Commune due to the re-zoning under way (both for the park around the historic Château and for the extension of an office property belonging to the European Broadcasting Union).

In late 1988, the Administrator of Public Works in the Canton of Geneva proposed a specific site to be considered as an alternative to the present plot owned by the WCC on which it would be possible to construct staff housing. The Sub-committee heard a report as to the suitability of the land for this purpose (it

could accommodate approximately 50 apartments for staff), and the legal procedures required.

Discussion in the Sub-committee focused on two options:

(a) to exchange ownership of the present plot for title to the alternative plot with the right to construct housing, or

(b) to sell the present plot to the Commune to generate funds for capital reinvestment and lease the alternative property on which to build housing rather than buy it.

The Sub-committee did not enter into discussion as to whether the Council should proceed with building staff housing per se, considering that such a recommendation would properly be generated by the Staffing Sub-committee. Should a subsequent Executive Committee receive such a recommendation, the Finance Sub-committee would need detailed background documentation to be able to consider options regarding the cost and scope of any proposed action and financing possibilities in light of the economic situation of the Council.

The following recommendations are made without prejudice as to such a decision and in the spirit of protecting both the assets of the WCC and the options open to the new Central Committee.

Arguments in favour of and against each option were considered:

- Exchange: The primary positive factor about this option is gaining title to land on which housing construction would be possible (an improvement over the present situation) without added cost. The negative aspect about exchanging the property is the present uncertainty in the Council's financial situation which raises questions about undertaking a building project without additional capital funds. Holding title to the land without building on it was not seen to be a preferable investment of funds in the present Geneva market.

- Sale: The primary negative factor about selling outright is the difficulty in protecting the capital sum generated, projected to be Sfr 5-6 million. The proceeds of a previous sale of WCC property which were meant to be reinvested were used for operating budgets. This contributed to the extent of the Council's need to borrow funds (to tie up its liquid assets in property for an extended period) in expanding the present office building (1984-1987). The primary positive factor of this option is that it generates capital for reinvestment which would not be available otherwise. Even if the Council did not own the land, it could decide to sell any buildings it might construct should its needs change or if it were desirable to generate further capital at a later date.

In light of the report and discussion, the Sub-committee recommended that:

a) the Executive Committee reaffirm the 1984 decision which authorised sale of the property provided the proceeds of that sale be for capital reinvestment in property at an appropriate time;

b) the WCC be authorised to enter into agreements with the local government for
   i) the sale of the WCC plot in Grand-Saconnex,
   ii) leasing of the alternative property, and
   iii) securing the necessary re-zoning and the right to build housing on the alternative property for the duration of the long-term lease period.

The Executive Committee agreed.

2. Special Funding

A. Seventh Assembly:

As of 24 January, 154 member church pledges (or payments without pledge) and 16 agency or lower judicatory pledges have been received, totalling Sfr 6,482,396. This is higher than the figure mentioned in September but roughly the equivalent of pledges one year ago, adjusted for increases in giving and decreases in exchange values.

The pledges must be assessed in light of the fact that

(a) actual income received against pledges has resulted in nearly Sfr 300,000 less than had been estimated due to lower exchange rates;

(b) the amount outstanding includes some US$550,000 - budgeted originally at Sfr 924,000 and now probably worth only Sfr 687,500 with lower exchange rates - a further loss of Sfr 236,500;

(c) the DM 1,783,750 outstanding at the time of writing will realise some Sfr 1,505,485 - a reduction of Sfr 21,405 in exchange value since the September meeting of the Executive Committee;

(d) increased giving includes an additional SEK 333,300 (Sfr 75,000) to help offset the lower Swedish government grant of which the Executive Committee was notified in September, and a higher payment by the United Methodist Church. The Sub-committee especially drew the attention of the Executive Committee to the commitment of the Russian Orthodox Church to provide Sfr 100,000 towards the costs of the assembly, a new pledge received immediately following the September meeting of the Executive Committee;

(e) given the dramatic decline in the economies of several member churches, it must also be expected that pledges may not be fully met from a few.

Of the 311 WCC member churches, 156 have not pledged towards support of the assembly. There remain 117 churches which have made no response at all regarding their support to the assembly. Of these, 31 have requested travel and accommodation subsidies prior to 1 September, and 34 are represented on the retiring Central Committee.

Archbishop Kirill spoke about the difficult financial situation in the Soviet Union following the dramatic changes that had taken place in recent weeks. In September 1990 the Russian Orthodox Church (ROC) promised to give a contribution of Sfr 100,000 to the WCC. In November, new exchange rates came into force to the extent that the government could no longer guarantee the exchange of rubles into convertible currencies according to official rates. The present exchange rate is twenty times higher than the level that existed in September. This means that the ROC is unable to make further contributions to the WCC until such time as there is an improvement in the economic situation. The financial pressures were such that they had had to reduce considerably the size of their delegation to the Canberra Assembly.

Assembly Income Summary		Swiss francs
Member churches & agencies, pledges at 24 January 1991 (at planning rates)	6,884,602	
Actuals received vs. pledges		3,747,308
Estimated fees from: Participant registration, Visitors (est. 1,200) and Daily Visitors		500,000
Assembly Reserve (with 1991 transfer)		3,300,000
Assembly Budget		10,500,000
Surplus/-Shortfall		-2,952,692
Pledges Outstanding (at 24 January rates)		2,574,548
Surplus/-Shortfall		-379,144

If the pledges are calculated at rates on 24 January, they total Sfr 6,220,182, a reduction of Sfr 664,420. Given that about half of that loss has already been realised in the actual sums received, the amount listed for Pledges Outstanding has been reduced from the planning amount (Sfr 3,137,294) by calculating the figures at 24 January rates.

In light of this situation, the Sub-committee recommended that the assembly budget contingency item, currently at the level of Sfr 859,500 be used in the first instance to cover any shortfall on income.

The Executive Committee agreed.

In addition to funds being contributed to the central budget, the Finance Sub-committee drew the attention of the Executive Committee to the contributions being made by the Australian churches and ecumenical friends towards the operation of the Canberra Assembly Office and activities. Appreciation for this financial and non-financial giving will be part of the total expression of contributions to the assembly.

B. World Conferences and Consultations

At its meeting in September 1990, the Executive Committee asked that the outstanding Special Funding Authorisations already approved be postponed until the February 1991 meeting of the Executive Committee, and that staff responsible for these events indicate the financial reality of the proposals and what programmatic impact the delay in Special Funding might have. These are as follows:

1) Ecumenical Global Gathering of Youth and Students (EGGYS) [Sfr 1.4 Million]: A cooperative activity between the WCC Youth Sub-unit, the World YWCA, WSCF, IMCS, IYCS and the World Alliance of YMCAs, the joint proposal for funding went into circulation in November 1990. OICD and the Youth Sub-unit confirmed with the General Secretary that WCC participation in this joint appeal was appropriate in light of the September decision. Subsequently, OICD conversations have been held with Youth staff, members and friends of the Board of Trustees of the Visser 't Hooft Endowment Fund, and with the new staff coordinator of the EGGYS process (Mr M. Quintero). There is interest in supporting this process, and a meeting is being organised in Canberra with Mr Quintero, agency donors, members of the Board of the Visser 't Hooft Endowment Fund, and other persons who have expressed support for the idea and willingness to assist in funding. OICD is assisting with setting national target sums as well as helping the partners to make contact with persons who may be able to open other financial doors.

The overall cost estimate being used at present by the youth networks for the EGGYS process, including the gathering itself, now totals Sfr 3.08 million. The Special Funding amount authorised for WCC is Sfr 1.4 million. The next planning meeting of the partners is in the spring, in Brazil, when local costs can be determined more accurately.

Based on the above, it is clear that the actual request for funds is on-going, and the Sub-committee recommended that:

(a) this item be authorised to continue as a Special Funding effort for Sfr 1.4 million to be completed in 1992, and

(b) every effort be made to assure that askings are coordinated so that donors do not receive requests from multiple partners.

The Executive Committee agreed.

2) Mid-Decade Regional Meetings - Ecumenical Decade of the Churches in Solidarity with Women, 1992/93: Originally approved for Special Funding at a level of Sfr 450,000, plans for the evaluation of the Decade have been revised in consultation with the Director designate, the acting Director and the Unit III Staff Moderator. In order to facilitate this process, the Sub-committee recommended that this item continue in the Special Funding category at the reduced level of Sfr 150,000, to be completed by 1993.

3) Fifth World Conference on Faith and Order, 1993 [Sfr 500,000]: This meeting had been authorised by the Central Committee for 1988 or 1989, but in view of the large number of world conferences in the period between Vancouver and Canberra, the Faith and Order Commission decided to postpone its World Conference until 1993. In September 1990 the Executive Committee agreed that the Special Funding authorisation already approved be postponed until February 1991, when staff were asked to report back indicating "the financial reality of the proposals and what programmatic impact the delay in special funding might have."

Churches have not been officially approached with requests for funds, but contributions of about Sfr 350,000 are already pledged, although official requests must be made soon so that appropriate provision can be made in the financial planning for 1992-93. The Standing Commission on Faith and Order was anxious that this Conference not be further postponed but was prepared to consider a reduction in the number of participants from 450 to 350 if this would be financially necessary.

The Sub-committee recommended that this item continue as a Special Funding authorisation to be completed in 1993.

Sub-committee recommendations on the foregoing are made as a recommitment to these events and with the understanding that no other Special Funding authorisations will be made during the period through 1993. It further recommended that, when the WCC communicates these askings to the member churches, all three be presented together so that the churches can plan accordingly.

The Executive Committee agreed to these recommendations.

C. Policy Review on Special Funding:

The Sub-committee received a background paper on Special Funding (Appendix IV) which it requested in September with a view to developing a recommendation to the new Central Committee on the necessity of limiting the number of world meetings and special funding authorisations in the period between Canberra and the next assembly. Due to lack of time, the Sub-committee did not formulate such a recommendation, but drew the attention of the Executive Committee to the following questions raised during the period since Vancouver:

- How many meetings between assemblies can be responsibly planned, executed and funded by the WCC and the member churches?
- How do world meetings as a methodology relate to the on-going work of the WCC?
- How much do extra-budgetary requests compete with the budget itself?
- What kind of authorisation procedures are needed for the planning and funding of meetings and consultations presently outside the budget?

- What level of extra-budgetary requests can be circulated without being 'too much' for the member churches?
- Does the Central Committee have the authority to incur obligations to the next Central Committee? i.e. scheduling meetings and making funding commitments which go beyond its own period of accountability; do limits need to be defined?
- Can world events be accommodated inside the budget process?
- How can funding priorities be set?

The Sub-committee requested that this report be included in the record (Appendix IV) for referral to the next Central Committee for its necessary continuing consideration of Special Funding.

Dr Wilson underlined the importance of sharing these questions also with those attending the July meeting, since they have implications for programme and style as well as financially.

3. Allocation of Undesignated Interest

All decisions regarding the allocation of undesignated interest for the years 1990 through 1992 were taken in September 1990 and are reflected in the budgets under consideration at this meeting.

4. Management of Investment Portfolios

The Sub-committee heard a report on the management of the investment portfolios of the WCC, held in both US dollars and Swiss francs. Investigation of the relatively low yield on the Bossey Endowment Fund suggests that a diversified, more dynamic and strategic pattern of management is required.

The Sub-committee recommended that the Executive Committee record the judgement that the investment portfolios of the WCC be managed in such a way as to maximise return and minimise risk. Management portfolios should be subject to systematic and periodic review and reports given to the Finance Sub-committee.

The Executive Committee agreed.

5. Fund-raising Efforts

The Sub-committee heard a report on various fund-raising initiatives being undertaken by staff. It recommended that the Executive Committee welcome the commitment of the staff to increasing the income of the Council and encourage them to make this a high priority following the assembly. It further recommended that the Executive Committee approve the recommendation of the enlarged Officers' meeting in November 1990 that, in 1991 and 1992, the use of up to Sfr 500,000 per year be authorised for income development.

In making this recommendation, the Sub-committee drew attention to the ongoing need to define and implement a more adequate

reporting capacity, particularly with a view to attracting large grants.

The Executive Committee agreed.

Given the relevance of finances to the life of the WCC, the Finance Sub-committee recommended that the Executive Committee recommend to the new Central Committee that it consider including the Moderator of the Finance Committee in meetings of the Officers of the Council.

This provoked considerable discussion. Dr Nababan felt such an action would put the Moderator of the Finance Sub-committee in the position of an Officer, while Dr Tolen saw it as a means of ensuring that finances are taken into account in all discussions about programmes. Others felt that the presence of the Assistant General Secretary for Finance and Administration at meetings of the Officers should cover this requirement.

Dr McCloud explained that it was not the intention to place the Finance Sub-committee Moderator at the level of an Officer, and underlined that this proposal was made "given the relevance of finances to the life of the WCC" at the present time. The AGS for Finance and Administration does not represent the Governing Bodies. Dr McCloud made the point that the other two sub-committees of the Executive Committee (Staffing & Nominations, and Programme) are both moderated by Officers.

The General Secretary saw the proposal as a useful one on certain occasions, but did not feel it should be seen as a directive.

Metropolitan Gregorios proposed an amendment, to add:

"whenever matters with financial implications are on the agenda".

The Executive Committee voted against this amendment, but agreed to the recommendation.

6. 1990 Provisional Results

Due to the timing of this meeting, closing figures were not yet available to the Sub-committee. It was noted that most programmes appeared to have stayed within the 95% spending level, with some known exceptions. It was also noted that payments were received extremely late in the year which meant that the income figures were not yet available and, further, that 40% of 1990 income came in at the lowest exchange rates of the year.

If the 95% spending levels have been respected, and if after drawing down up to one-third of operating balances, income should be less than required due to exchange losses, the Sub-committee recommended that the remaining deficit be covered by drawing down on the Exchange Fluctuation Fund. Should spending levels exceed the 95% authorised, the deficit would be carried forward to be absorbed within the 1991 budget of the respective programme.

The final results of 1990 would be reported to the 1991 Central Committee.

The Executive Committee agreed.

7. 1991 Budget, Staff Salaries and Cost of Living Adjustment

According to Regulation III 1.02:

"The cost of living index in Geneva shall be reviewed twice a year as at 31 December and 30 June. If the cost of living has increased by 4% or more since the last review, the salary scale may be adapted effective as from 1 April and 1 October."

As of 31 December 1990 the Geneva Index was 128.4, an increase of 4.7% since the review at 31 December 1989.

With the understanding that this amount is included in the budget under consideration, the Sub-committee recommended that the further 4.7% adjustment be granted, effective 1 April 1991.

The Sub-committee further recommended that, on recommendation of the General Secretary, an additional 1% be added to the salary scale to assist in adjusting the scale in accordance with other local voluntary agencies, effective 1 April 1991.

It is also recommended that the new Central Committee undertake a review of the present policy regarding cost of living adjustments and step increases in light of the financial situation.

The Executive Committee agreed to these recommendations.

8. Revised 1991 Budget

The Sub-committee considered a revised 1991 budget which had been prepared without drawing down on reserves, as requested by the Executive Committee in September. Staff and related costs were budgeted on the basis of zero recruitment and planned departures as known. The figures further assume the delaying of all sub-unit meetings until 1992.

Despite these measures, the revised budget had a shortfall of income over expense of Sfr 2,543,597, largely due to the effect of the revised exchange rates (US$ at 1.26, down from 1.45 with similar reductions for the Canadian dollar; D-Mark .857, down marginally from .86), income globally down nearly 4% since the figures presented in September.

To achieve an authorised spending level for the current year during this meeting, the Sub-committee recommended that:

(a) the allocation of undesignated income be adjusted to the level of income anticipated, that is Sfr 5,928,132;

(b) CWME be authorised to use up to one-third of its operating balance as a guarantee against shortfall of income;

(c) in 1991, in addition to Sfr 172,800, the Ecumenical Institute, Bossey, will be provided up to Sfr 100,000 from undesignated income if necessary to balance its budget;

(d) in Unit III, the Programme on Theological Education and the Sub-units on Women in Church and Society and Education be authorised to use up to one-third of operating balances as a guarantee against shortfall of income;

(e) in Unit II, the deficit of JPIC be reduced by Sfr 500,000 by using undesignated balances of the Council; this action is taken in recognition that JPIC was a Council-wide emphasis coming from the Sixth Assembly;

(f) the remaining imbalance in Unit II be covered by reviewing the allocation of Service Programme funds and authorising the use of up to one-third of operating balances as a guarantee against shortfall of income; these two actions should clear the Unit II budget of debt from previous years as it faces 1992.

(g) expenses should be adjusted so that they do not exceed the resources as described.

With these adjustments, the Sub-committee recommended that the Executive Committee approve the 1991 budget.

The Executive Committee **agreed** to these recommendations.

9. 1992 Budget Considerations

The Sub-committee received a preliminary outline of the 1992 budget (Appendix V) to illustrate the magnitude of difficulty in planning for the post-assembly period.

The Sub-committee identified a number of factors affecting these figures, primarily the reduction of income due to exchange rates, and the ratio of staff costs to the total budget. The figures are based on the best estimates of 1992 income with the principal exchange rates of 1 US$ = Sfr 1.50 (and equivalent reduction of the Canadian dollar); 1 D-Mark = Sfr .88.

In reviewing the figures, it was noted that, in 1988, staff-related expenses comprised 65% of the total. In the 1991 budget 75% of the costs are staff-related. The 1992 budget outline would imply 77% of total costs being linked to staffing.

The Sub-committee raised the question as to whether such a ratio is sustainable and even acceptable. It recommended that the budget outline and its supporting documentation be referred to the new Executive Committee with encouragement that in July they review the projected income for 1992 to see whether the level of staff projected can be sustained.

The latest estimate of income for 1992 is Sfr 37,181,319; the estimated cost of staff for the period is Sfr 28,920,000.

Other known costs for 1992 are the Eighth Assembly reserve - Sfr 400,000 - and Sfr 760,000 for Governing Bodies.

At the present time, the figures reflect known staff departures meaning a level of 301 persons rather than the 290 (1991) to 270 (1992) recommended by the enlarged Officers' meeting in November.

On this basis, the projected budget profile is as follows:

111 Executive Staff at Sfr 130,000		14,430,000
161 Support Staff (131 full-time, 59 part-time)		14,490,000
Total Staff-related costs		28,920,000
Estimated INCOME 1992		37,180,000
Less Staff Costs above		(28,920,000)
Balance for other purposes		8,260,000
less: Eighth Assembly Reserve		(400,000)
Governing Bodies		(760,000)
Balance for all other expenses	Sfr	7,100,000

The equivalent amount for 'other expenses' in 1990 was Sfr 10,100,000. The comparable amount in 1989, the last year of 'normal' working, was Sfr 15,822,000.

In drawing attention to this dilemma, the Sub-committee recorded its concern that the figures at present are unrealistic and reflect an untenable situation for maintaining the Council itself. It recommended that the Executive Committee affirm and recommend to the new Executive Committee as it begins work on the 1992 budget following the July planning meetings, as recommended by the Executive Committee at its last meeting, that there be a reduction in the number of administrative programme centres and related personnel so as to release personnel and funds for programmatic work.

It further recommended that the Executive Committee pass on possible models for the future structures of the WCC to the new Executive Committee, including the two considered by the March 1990 Central Committee, with the request that it recommend to the new Central Committee a clear set of priorities and one appropriate new structure to carry forward agreed existing programmatic concerns and new ones arising from the Assembly, within the anticipated resources of finance and personnel available.

The Sub-committee recognised that the detailed 1992 budget must be prepared when the programme priorities have been agreed and appropriate structures have been approved following the Canberra Assembly. The Sub-committee recommended that the new Executive Committee be provided with an outline budget based on anticipa-

ted income, staff costs based on the number anticipated to be in post throughout the year, and other known basic costs, e.g., Governing Bodies, Central Services. The Executive and Central Committees will also need to be provided with full explanation regarding attempts to produce a balanced budget for 1992, the consultation with the Officers and subsequent efforts to cost the various options under consideration for the future structures of the Council. Both Committees need to be advised that it was the conclusion of the WCC Officers that balanced budgets can only be achieved in coming years by

- substantial staff reductions,
- reduction in the number of administrative cost centres, and
- making income the primary consideration in building budgets.

The Executive Committee agreed.

10. Investment Advisory Group

The Finance Sub-committee received the nomination of Dr Thérèse Draper for membership in the Investment Advisory Group; she is Treasury Manager for Procter & Gamble AG in Geneva. The Sub-committee noted with appreciation that for the first time it has been possible to bring forward the name of a woman for nomination, and recommended that the Executive Committee name Dr Draper as a member of the Investment Advisory Group.

The Executive Committee agreed.

11. Conclusion

The Finance Sub-committee recorded its profound thanks to staff, especially to Ms Béguin-Austin and Mr Pettingell who have carried the heavy burden of WCC finances during the past year. The Sub-committee also welcomed the arrival of the Rev. Michael Davies and his assumption of the work of the Assistant General Secretary for Finance and Administration.

The Moderator expressed thanks to the Finance Sub-committee and to Dr McCloud for their careful work.

12. RESOLUTION FROM PRE-ASSEMBLY YOUTH EVENT PARTICIPANTS

At the final session, a resolution was received from participants in the Pre-Assembly Youth Event (PAYE) with proposals to ensure greater participation of youth in the assembly in view of the fact that the member churches had not succeeded in including at least 20% youth in their delegations. The PAYE asked the Executive Committee to support the following motions and bring them before the assembly: that

1) the following be added to point IV 1.b) of the WCC Rules:

Stewards: The Sub-unit on Youth or another appropriate body will select young people to serve as stewards. Outside their working schedule their participation in the assembly is encouraged. As long as the goal for youth participation has not been reached, they have the right to speak, but not to vote.

2) furthermore, the following be added to point V.1 of the Rules:

   g) As long as the goal for youth membership in the Central Committee has not been reached, young people serving as stewards at Central Committee meetings have the right to speak, but not to vote, if their work schedule permits them to do so.

   The old point g) would become point h).

3) furthermore, the following be added to point IX of the Rules:

   6. As long as the goal for youth participation has not been reached, stewards invited to meetings and conferences are considered coopted staff with the right to speak but not to vote.

This provoked considerable reaction, with the following viewpoints:

Dr Bührig felt that this resolution stemmed from important concerns on the part of young people, and it should be made easier for them to have an opportunity to take the floor, at the discretion of the Moderator. Dr Tolen did not see that this would help solve the basic problem, and would only be an easy way out for the churches which had not included youth in their delegations.

Dr Talbot said that stewards are an important part of the assembly and of Central Committee and should be seen to be; she would thus like them to be identified in the Rules. Mr Piske pointed out that some churches have never been able to send a steward to a WCC meeting, while others can send them regularly. Dr McCloud agreed, noting that stewards are not selected in an equal way among the churches around the world. He felt that no purpose was served if stewards wish to speak if they come from churches which have also had the opportunity to appoint youth delegates.

The General Secretary explained that one of the reasons why there had been a policy to invite six young people to recent meetings of Central Committee was to increase the number of youth who are fully involved in the Central Committee process.

Metropolitan Gregorios made the following proposals:

1) in view of the fact that youth participation has not reached 20%, moderators of assembly sessions give special preference to requests from the floor from youth participants;

2) that stewards also may be given the privilege of the floor at this assembly at the discretion of the Moderator;

3) that the next Central Committee be asked to consider the process and manner of selection of stewards and their role at WCC meetings, including the possibility of their elected representatives being granted the right to the floor, the necessary changes being made in the Rules.

The Executive Committee voted in favour of the first two proposals (Bishop Hempel and Mr Piske voting against the first); the third proposal was agreed by common consent.

13. REPORT OF THE STAFFING SUB-COMMITTEE

In a closed session, Dr Talbot presented the recommendations of the Staffing Sub-committee as follows:

A. Contract extensions

The Executive Committee reviewed the application of the action it took in September to limit contract renewals to one year for the time being and, while having some reservations, it affirmed the decision of the General Secretary to apply this limit also to those contracts which were renewed in March 1990.

The Executive Committee approved the following contract extensions which are for one year unless otherwise stated:

GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Library

Mr Pierre Beffa (Switzerland, Roman Catholic Church) (non-programme) from 1 July 1992 (will complete 27 years' service)

Finance and Central Services

Mr Armand Laurent (Switzerland, Swiss Protestant Church Federation) (non-programme) from 21 February 1992 (will complete 16 years' service)

UNIT I

Commission on World Mission and Evangelism

Canon Kenith David (South Africa, Church of England) Coordinator, Urban Rural Mission, from 1 June 1992 (will complete 10 years' service)

Ms Nicole Fischer (Switzerland, Swiss Protestant Church Federation) Secretary for Relationships in Mission, from 1 April 1992 (will complete 8 years' service)

UNIT II

Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service

Mr Matthew Stevenson (UK, Church of Scotland) Secretary for Finance, from 1 June 1992 (will complete 5 years' service)

Mr Lalashowi Swai (Tanzania, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania) Programme Secretary for Africa, from 1 March 1992 (will complete 13 years' service)

Rev. Myra Blyth (UK, Baptist Union of Great Britain) Area Secretary for Europe, from 1 March 1992 (will complete 5 years' service)

Commission on the Churches' Participation in Development

Mr Oh Jae-Shik (South Korea, Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea [PROK]) Director, from 28 May 1992 (will complete 5 years' service)

Programme to Combat Racism

Rev. Nyameko Barney Pityana (South Africa, Church of the Province of Southern Africa [Anglican]) Director, from 1 May 1992 (will complete 5 years' service)

UNIT III

Education

Dr Wille Riekkinen (Finland, Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Finland) Programme Secretary for Biblical Studies, from 1 June 1992 (will complete 5 years' service)

The Executive Committee agreed to these recommendations.

B. Internal promotion from Grade 5 to Grade 6:

The Executive Committee approved the recommendation of the following promotion from grade 5 to grade 6, all due processes foreseen having been fulfilled:

UNIT II

Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service

Ms Angélica Espinoza (Chile, Roman Catholic Church)

C. Vacancies

UNIT III

Programme on Ecumenical Theological Education (incorporating Bossey and PTE)

Lecturer (secondment EKD)

Other vacancies would not be filled for the time being.

Dr Talbot reported the recommendation of the Staffing Sub-committee that the General Secretary consider for internal promotion administrative staff who are suitably qualified for a more senior position.

Dr Wilson was in favour of giving such opportunity to administrative staff, most of whom are women. However, she warned against the assumption that, once on the staff, a person may be fitted into any category regardless of appropriate qualifications for a particular job.

Dr Talbot explained that there are persons already on staff who are in some instances already doing an executive task; these should be encouraged to apply for appropriate vacancies that may arise.

The Sub-committee further recommended that the Executive Committee give power to the Officers to fill urgent vacancies (internal transfers) that must be filled prior to the next meeting.
This was agreed.

D. Information

I Arrivals

GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Electronic Data Processing

Mr David Pozzi-Johnson (USA, Swedish Covenant Church) as Director of Computer Services on 1 October 1990.

UNIT I

Dialogue with People of Living Faiths

Mr Tarek Mitri (Lebanon, Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and all the East [Eastern]) as Secretary for Christian/Muslim Dialogue on 1 May 1991.

UNIT II

Commission of the Churches on International Affairs

Ms Elizabeth Salter (UK, Religious Society of Friends) as Executive Secretary on 1 September 1990.

UNIT III

Women in Church and Society

Ms Aruna Gnanadason (India, Church of South India) as Director on 15 May 1991.

Programme on Ecumenical Theological Education (incorporating Bossey & PTE)

Dr Judo Poerwowidagdo (Indonesia, Javanese Christian Churches in Central Java [Reformed]) as Assistant Director on 15 August 1990.

II. Departures

It is reported that the following staff members have left, or will shortly leave, the service of the World Council of Churches on the dates indicated:

GENERAL SECRETARIAT

US Office

Rev. Joan Campbell (USA, Christian Church [Disciples of Christ]) Director, on 31 March 1991 (will complete 5.5 years' service)

UNIT I

Church and Society

Rev. Dr Freda Rajotte (Canada, United Church of Canada) Programme Secretary, on 30 April 1991 (will complete 3.6 years)

UNIT II

Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service

Dr Elizabeth Ferris (USA, Society of Friends General Conference) Study and Interpretation Secretary, Refugee Service, on 30 June 1991 (will complete 6.1 years' service)

Commission of the Churches on International Affairs

Mr Ninan Koshy (India, Church of South India) Director, on 30 June 1991 (will complete 17 years' service)

III Consultants

It is reported that the following Consultant was appointed by the General Secretary since the last Executive Committee meeting in September 1990:

GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Finance and Central Services

Mr Robert Varga (Switzerland, Roman Catholic Church) for 1 year from 1 January 1991.

14. CLOSING ACTIONS AND CLOSING WORSHIP

The Moderator, Dr Held, adjourned this session of the Executive Committee at 16.00 hrs on Wednesday 6 February 1991.

Closing Worship was led by His Eminence Chrysostomos, Metropolitan of Myra.

APPENDIX I

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT

Presidents:	Dr Marga Bührig	
	H.E. Metropolitan Dr Paulos Mar Gregorios	
	Landesbischof Dr Johannes Hempel	
	Most Rev. W. P. Khotso Makhulu	
	Very Rev. Dr Lois M. Wilson	
Officers:	Rev. Dr Heinz Joachim Held	(Moderator)
	H.E. Chrysostomos, Metropolitan of Myra	(Vice-Moderator)
	Dr Sylvia Ross Talbot	(Vice-moderator)
	Rev. Dr Emilio Castro	(General Secretary)
Members:	Ms Annathaie Abayasekera	
	Archbishop Athanasios of Beni Souef	
	Mr John H.Y. Briggs	
	Rev. Puafitu Faa'alo	
	Ms Joyce Kaddu	
	Archbishop Kirill of Smolensk	
	Dr Janice Love	
	Rev. Dr J. Oscar McCloud	
	Ephorus Dr Soritua A.E. Nababan	
	Rev. Meinrad Piske	
	Ms Jean Skuse	
	Dr Aaron Tolen	
	Bishop Dr Karoly Toth	
	Mr Per Voksoe	
Consultants:	Prof. John Deschner	
	Ms Ruth Esche	
	Rev. Jean-Pierre Jornod	
	Rev. Dr Avery Post	
Staff:	Rev. S. Wesley Ariarajah	
	Ms Midge Béguin-Austin	
	Prof. Ion Bria	
	Mr Peter Brock	
	Rev. Joan Campbell	
	Rev. Michael Davies	
	Rev. Christopher Duraisingh	
	Rev. Günther Gassmann	
	Rev. Wesley Granberg-Michaelson	
	Dr Dan Kaseje	
	Mr Jan Kok	
	Mr Ninan Koshy	
	Rev. Jacques Nicole	
	Ms Mercy Amba Oduyoye	

Mr Oh Jae Shik
Rev. Clifford Payne
Rev. William Perkins
Mr Hugh Pettingell
Rev. Barney Pityana
Dr Klaus Poser
Mr Günter Rath
Prof. Todor Sabev
Rev. Carlos Sintado
Ms Ruth Sovik
Ms Jean Stromberg

Interpreters: Mr Mstislav Voskressensky
Ms Renate Sbeghen
Ms Ursula Zierl

Minute Writer: Ms Rosemary Green

APOLOGIES

Presidents: Dame Nita Barrow
His Beatitude Ignatios IV

Members: His Eminence Antonie,
Metropolitan of Transylvania
Mr Bena-Silu

APPENDIX II

MEMBERSHIP OF SUB-COMMITTEES

Sub-committee on Programme

Metropolitan Chrysostomos	- Moderator	
Metropolitan Antonie		(absent)
Dr Marga Bührig		
Metropolitan Dr Paulos Mar Gregorios		
Landesbischof Dr Johannes Hempel		
Patriarch Ignatios IV		(absent)
Ms Joyce Kaddu		
Dr Janice Love		
Ephorus Dr Soritua A.E. Nababan		
Dr Aaron Tolen		

Sub-committee on Finance

Rev. Dr J. Oscar McCloud	- Moderator	
Mr Bena Silu		(absent)
Rev. Puafitu Faa'alo		
Ms Jean Skuse		
Mr Per Voksoe		
Very Rev. Dr Lois Wilson		

Sub-committee on Staffing and Nominations

Dr Sylvia Ross Talbot	- Moderator	
Ms Annathaie Abayasekera		
Archbishop Athanasios		
Dame R. Nita Barrow		(absent)
Mr John H.Y. Briggs		
Archbishop Kirill		
Most Rev. W. Khotso Makhulu		
Rev. Meinrad Piske		
Bishop Dr Karoly Toth		

APPENDIX III

NOMINATIONS PROCESS AND PROCEDURES

This document provided a basic framework for the process of nominations for the Central Committee and Presidents for the period following the Canberra Assembly. It constituted the first report of the Nominations Committee to the Assembly on 9 February, when approval of its basic content was required. Having been approved, the document became the reference guide for the nominations process.

* * *

1. Rules for the Election of the Central Committee

1.1. The Constitution and Rules of the WCC provide some guidance for composing the membership of the Central Committee. They state that: "The Nominations Committee shall secure adequate representation of lay persons - men, women and young people - so far as the composition of the assembly makes this possible."(Rules, IV.4.c.(4)

The Rules specify that the Central Committee shall be composed of 145 members from the total delegates of the member churches and 5 from the delegates of associate member churches. The expected number of assembly delegates is approximately 950. This means that 6.5 delegates is the basis of one seat in the Central Committee. Outgoing Central Committee members who are official delegates of the member churches in Canberra are eligible for re-election to serve on the new Central Committee to provide continuity. The Central Committee shall have qualified persons and maximum representation in terms of confessions, regions, cultures and interests of the WCC constituency. No delegation - regardless of its size - is entitled to more than seven members. (Rules, IV.4.c)

1.2. At the August 1988 Central Committee in Hanover, clear minimum percentages for Seventh Assembly participation of women and youth were established: 40% women and 20% youth. For the post-Canberra Central Committee, the Nominations Committee recommends these same percentages for women and youth participation as a minimum. However, the committee considers equal (50:50) representation of women and men as our goal. Furthermore, at its meeting in July 1982, the Central Committee stated that it would be desirable that the total Orthodox membership of the Central Committee represent 25%. (Central Committee Minutes, Geneva, July 1982, p. 49). Each Orthodox member church is eligible for at least one member (Central Committee Minutes, Geneva, July 1982, p.51).

1.3. The unification of Europe is appreciated, and it is possible that by the time of the next assembly we shall have an integrated European continent. But at this time of transition the Nominations Committee shall treat Europe as two parts for selection and balance of members of the Central Committee.

1.4. The Committee will keep in mind the need to include some representatives of the churches which have never had membership in the Central Committee.

1.5. The Nominations Committee shall present its nominations to the assembly, first in plenary 9 on 12 February, and later in plenary 12 on 15 February. At that time "additional nominations may be made by any six delegates concurring in writing, provided that each such nominee shall be proposed in opposition to a particular nominee of the Nominations Committee." (Rule IV.4.d).

2. Three Stages in the Process

The election of the Central Committee members is a very complicated matter, and preparation started before the assembly. There are three stages in the process:

a) member churches submitting names of candidates for the new Central Committee;
b) screening by the Nominations Committee of the proposed names to ensure balance of composition of the Central Committee, and
c) election of the new Central Committee by the assembly delegates.

3. Preparation Stage

3.1. Member churches were invited to submit their proposed nominees for the Central Committee from among the assembly delegates.

3.2. Extensive work shall be done to establish adequate membership allocations for each region, each confession, for women and men, for youth and so on. The number of seats on Central Committee allocated to individual churches will be calculated in proportion to the size of their delegation to the assembly and the number of delegates of the same confessional family from the region.

4. Screening and Election Stages

The screening of the proposed names will end with the election of the new Central Committee. Delegations can influence the process by consulting with the Nominations Committee. As mentioned earlier, the delegates can nominate alternative names, thus challenging the names proposed by the Nominations Committee. Since the process is intricate, it is important to know the timetable of the Committee's work.

5. Nominations Committee on the Agenda of the Assembly Plenaries

Plenary 1 Election of the Nominations Committee.

Plenary 5 Presentation by the Nominations Committee of its duties and tasks, seeking the approval of the assembly of the committee's timetable of work and procedures under the Rules.

Plenary 9 A first list of nominees for Central Committee to be presented - but no discussion in plenary - and time given until the morning of 14 February for written comments by assembly delegates.

Plenary 12 The Nominations Committee to submit list of proposed WCC Presidents and new Central Committee. No action required by the assembly at this time.

Any additional nominations by delegates must now be submitted in writing to the Moderator of the Central Committee during the period between presentation of the Nominations Committee report on 15 February and the beginning of the business session on 18 February. Such nominations must be supported by six delegates and must be proposed in opposition to a particular nominee of the Nominations Committee (Rules, IV.4.d).

Plenary 14 The Assembly
a) to vote by ballot on those nominations where changes have been proposed to the list presented by the Nominations Committee, and
b) then to vote on the complete (amended) nominations list. This vote to take place in the same plenary session by a show of hands.

6. Work Periods of the Nominations Committee at the Assembly

a) All noontime committee slots in the assembly timetable: 7, 8 and 9 February and from the 11th to the 16th.
b) All day on 14 February after receipt of the written comments deadlined for 18:00 hrs on 13 February.
c) Other times as required.

7. Election of the Presidents

7.1. The Assembly shall elect up to seven Presidents, eminent persons of seniority and considerable experience who have distinguished themselves in the ecumenical movement and in the life of the church, and who will represent the various constituencies and regions. They do not have to be delegates to the assembly. (The Role of the Presidents of the WCC is described in the minutes of the Executive Committee, Norway, September 1990, page 35.)

7.2. Member churches have been asked to propose candidates for the Presidium. In accordance with recent history, the Committee expects that two of the seven Presidents shall be Orthodox, one Oriental and one Eastern, and that at least three of the seven Presidents shall be women.

7.3 The nomination process for the Presidium shall be open throughout the assembly period until the election day. Nominations shall be addressed to the four officers of the Nominations Committee. The election of the Presidents takes place after the election of the Central Committee members, in the same plenary session.

APPENDIX IV

Review of Special Funding Policy and Practice

At the request of the Finance Sub-committee in September 1990, the following background information was prepared for consideration in February 1991. The following text gives an overview of the experience of this Executive Committee in terms of authorising and funding world meetings during the period since the Sixth Assembly. The request was made "with a view to developing a recommendation to the new Central Committee that it give serious attention to the necessity of considering a limited number of world meetings and Special Funding Authorisations in the period between the next two assemblies and that it give early attention to long-term planning of programme and financial support."

a) What is Special Funding? The February 1980 Minutes of the Executive Committee read as follows:

> "According to the September 1978 Executive Committee decision 'authorisation to seek or to apply additional funds to cover any item of expenditure which are over and above the approved budget (can) be granted only by specific resolution of the Executive Committee, **providing the department or sub-unit concerned has otherwise reduced to a significant degree its dependence on Central Church Treasury income, internal transfers from other Sub-units, or fund balances.**'
>
> "It is understood that words 'over and above the approved budget' mean that such decisions to authorise special funding are taken **after a budget has been approved for items of expenditure to be spent during the current fiscal year.** This would indicate that such decisions are of exceptional nature and should probably be justified by a certain character of urgency.
>
> "Such a procedure is quite normal and responsible. It merely underlines the fact that **the Geneva staff can only spend monies that are included in budgets approved by the Executive Committee.** Over and above such approved budgets, any spending and therefore the corresponding fund-raising must be subjected to a special authorisation. The urgency of extra-budgetary items requiring special authorisations must be such that they **cannot await the discussion, inclusion in and approval of the budget of the following year.**
>
> "If this interpretation is correct, it is suggested that such authorisation remain exceptional. It is hoped that such special funding authorisations will not become an 'ordinary' and regular procedure, and that requests for special funding presented to the Executive Committee will only be approved if it is impossible to include the items of expenditure that require such special funding into the budget of the following year."

The above statement was adopted as a basic policy of the WCC.

Highlighted text indicates areas of consideration which have not been included in recent practice. The assumptions implicit in the policy as stated are that authorisation to spend must be given by the governing bodies, and that basically all expenses should be in the budget. The latter policy has been reiterated by the Executive Committee during this period.

The above does not entirely reflect present practice, however, particularly in terms of the relationship of budgeted items to trust funds. The historical reference may suggest areas for reflection and new policy recommendations, particularly in terms of the relationship of world meetings and other large askings to the programme planning and budgeting process.

b) The experience 1984-1991:

Over the period, funding was sought in relation to International Youth Year (1985/6), Diakonia 2000 (Larnaca 1986), National Council of Churches Consultation (1986), Government Funding consultancy, Persons with Disabilities consultancy, Learning in a World of many Faiths, Cultures and Ideologies (1985-89), Resource Sharing (El Escorial 1987), CWME (San Antonio 1989), JPIC (Seoul 1990) and the Sixth and Seventh Assemblies.

Additionally, in 1998 the EGGYS began planning a world meeting scheduled for 1992, and the Faith and Order meeting originally scheduled for 1988/89 was postponed to 1993. Five of these authorisations were given after fund-raising or legal obligation had been incurred. One was paid largely with sub-unit balances; one incurred a sizeable deficit due to overspending. The askings related to these events - over and above annual amounts paid into reserve accounts for these purposes and staff preparation costs in the regular budget - averaged more than Sfr 2 million per year. On two occasions the Sub-committee restored items to a sub-unit budget (consultancy on People with Disabilities and study on Learning in a World of many Faiths..) where they were funded.

The five world meetings in five years (1986-1990), plus the assembly appeal and countless smaller requests for meetings both within and outside the budget, provoked a good many grumblings in the member churches. It is not clear that the enthusiasm generated by the meetings themselves increased support for the on-going work of the Council.

c) Policy and planning elements raised in relation to these appeals include:

- location as a cost factor to be considered
- local hospitality
- size
- budgetary discipline/monitoring
- participant subsidies
- no funds are available to cover deficits of 'council' meetings
- setting up reserves, annual transfers, etc; relationship to operating funds, designated/undesignated/ block grants

Questions raised during the period include:

- How many meetings between assemblies can be responsibly planned, executed and funded by the WCC and the member churches?

- How do world meetings as a methodology relate to the on-going work of the WCC?

- How much do extra-budgetary requests compete with the budget itself?

- What kind of authorisation procedures are needed for the planning and funding of meetings and consultations presently outside the budget?

- What level of extra-budgetary requests can be circulated without being 'too much' for the member churches?

- Does the Central Committee have the authority to incur obligations to the next Central Committee? i.e. scheduling meetings and making funding commitments which go beyond its own period of accountability; do limits need to be defined?

- Can world events be accommodated inside the budget process?

- How can funding priorities be set?

1992 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Budget Entity	Total Expenses Budget	Internal Recoveries & Transfers	Net Expenses Budget	Income	Surplus (Shortfall)	Surplus (Shortfall) after	Allocation Undesignate Income
Gen Sec	1,798,417		1,798,417	3,000	-1,795,417	-72,903	1,722,514
U S Office	316,267	236,791	79,476	85,620	6,144	6,144	
O I C D	641,009	639,900	1,109	0	-1,109	-1,109	
Gov bod	665,440	665,440	0	0	0	0	
Library	860,760	554,700	306,060	301,000	-5,060	-5,060	
Conf & Travel	142,225	129,600	12,625	12,000	-625	-625	
E S R	180,489	0	180,489	0	-180,489	-180,489	
Total Gen Sec	4,604,607	2,226,431	2,378,177	401,620	-1,976,557	-254,043	1,722,514
Faith & Order	1,357,793	0	1,357,793	310,398	-1,047,395	-86,239	961,156
C W M E	2,539,948	96,000	2,443,948	2,241,432	-202,516	-202,516	
Dialogue	1,173,601	0	1,173,601	434,095	-739,506	-140,714	598,792
Church & Society	783,661	0	783,661	317,650	-466,011	-54,446	411,565
Unit I General	2,100	0	2,100	2,100	0	0	
Total Unit I	5,857,103	96,000	5,761,103	3,305,675	-2,455,428	-483,915	1,971,513

C I C A R W S	9,633,794	3,253,755	6,380,039	6,028,114	-351,925	-351,925	
UNIT II - S P		-6,103,755	6,103,755	6,103,122	-633	-633	
C C I A	2,136,362	850,000	1,286,362	919,607	-366,755	-366,755	
P C R	1,673,137	850,000	823,137	641,091	-182,046	-182,046	
C C P D	2,348,531	1,462,500	886,031	295,681	-590,350	-590,350	
C M C	2,517,275	652,700	1,864,575	2,081,847	217,272	217,272	
Total Unit II	18,309,100	965,200	17,343,900	16,069,462	-1,274,438	-1,274,438	0
Renewal	971,097	0	971,097	341,213	-629,884	-51,728	578,156
Youth	1,063,636	0	1,063,636	266,103	-797,533	-10,987	786,546
Women	1,000,499	0	1,000,499	815,930	-184,569	-184,569	
Education	3,519,374	1,537,832	1,981,542	1,411,155	-570,387	-570,387	
P T E / Bossey	4,196,879	0	4,196,879	3,523,708	-673,171	-673,171	172,800
Unit III General	11,750	-1,537,832	1,549,582	1,549,582	0	0	
Total Unit III	10,763,236	0	10,763,236	7,907,691	-2,855,545	-1,490,843	1,537,502
Communication	7,551,513	4,942,200	2,609,313	1,336,500	-1,272,813	-100,811	1,172,002
Finance and C S	8,801,051	6,486,807	2,314,245	1,944,741	-369,503	-369,503	
Eighth Assembly		300,000	-300,000		300,000		0
Undesignated Income				6,403,531	6,403,531	**	
Overrecoveries	-681,737		-681,737		681,737		
	55,204,874	15,016,637	40,188,237	37,369,220	-2,819,016	-3,973,553	6,403,531